

A background photograph showing a group of people, primarily women, engaged in conversation at what appears to be a networking event or conference. They are wearing name tags and some are holding folders or documents. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

# BECOME AN ACF MEMBER

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**Association of Charitable Foundations**  
[acf.org.uk](http://acf.org.uk)

Diverse, vibrant, and effective foundations, working together for social good.

**“We were really pleased to discover the support and network available to us via ACF. The application process was easy to navigate and the team at ACF have been incredibly helpful and responsive.”**

Polly Dean, operations manager, Hg Foundation

# ABOUT US

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The Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) is the leading membership association for foundations and independent grant-makers in the UK.

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

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Our vision is diverse, vibrant, and effective foundations, working together for social good



We strengthen trusts and foundations so they can rise to the challenges of our times



We do this through policy and advocacy, research and information, events and learning



Our membership connects you with over 440 foundations and grant-makers



**“Meeting, sharing and learning from other funders, both similar peers and those of different shapes and sizes is vital – for both new and more experienced staff and trustees – an opportunity not to be missed!”**

James Wragg, chief operating officer, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation



# ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

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More than 440 organisations are proud to be part of the ACF community.

Membership of ACF offers connection, collaboration and learning from peers and experts. It is inclusive and welcomes family trusts, corporate foundations, livery companies, broadcasting appeals and other grant-makers. Our members range in size from small and local grant-makers to some of the world's largest foundations.



# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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Membership keeps you up to date and connected with the foundation sector through events and networking, information and guidance and policy and advocacy. ACF members can take advantage of:



**Our digital newsletters** packed with sector news, key information UK foundations need to know about changes in charity regulation and shared member experiences.



**Briefings on key policy issues affecting trusts and foundations**, such as safeguarding, governance and fraud guidance.



**Free copies of our publications** which provide vital reference material or summarise current thinking.



**Discounted fees** for professional development and learning **events**.



**Significant discount to attend our conference** – the biggest trust and foundation sector event of its kind.



**Exclusive access to member-led peer networks** on areas of funding interest or grant-making practice.



**Getting involved** with our policy and advocacy work through the **Members' Policy Forum** and programmes such as **Stronger Foundations** and **Foundation Giving Trends**.



**Regular updates** on ACF's involvement with sector-wide initiatives, including the **Funder Commitment on Climate Change** and the **Funders Collaborative Hub**.

For a full list of member benefits visit [our website](#).

# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

We have three categories of membership: Full, Associate and Affiliate.

Visit [our website](#) for further information about which category is the best fit for your organisation.

## Fees

Our fee structure is based on the level of grant spending per annum, and our rates are listed [on our website](#). You can join at any time in the year and we will pro rata your fees (set January-December) as appropriate.

**“We joined ACF as we could see the benefits of belonging to an organisation that not only brought funders together, but also provided training, networking and regular updates. These benefits proved invaluable when our worlds were turned upside down as the pandemic hit.”**

Justine Massingham, foundation secretary, Greggs Foundation

## 1 FULL MEMBERSHIP

Open to UK charities which have grant-making as a principal function and which make grants from income of which at least 30% is derived from assured sources.

**Full members** have access to the complete range of ACF services and benefits, and may also elect ACF's trustee board and vote at formal meetings.

## 2 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Only open to grant-making organisations which don't meet the conditions of FULL membership because grant-making is not a principal function, their income is not assured, or they are based outside the UK. **Associate members** have access to the complete range of ACF services and benefits.

## 3 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

A discretionary category for organisations which administer or act as a trustee for several grant-making trusts or foundations.



# HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

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1

Check that you meet the eligibility criteria listed [here](#).



2

Decide who within your organisation will be your 'ACF Rep'. This is the main contact to whom we'll send all communications about your membership.



3

Complete the online application form [here](#). Financial and supporting documentation is required.



4

Once submitted, your application form will be reviewed by ACF for approval. We may come back to you for further information if required.



5

Once approved we'll notify you by email and send you a welcome pack. You'll be able to take advantage of your membership benefits immediately!

Further information about how to join and our online application form can be found [here](#).

**"ACF offers us a chance to access good practice in a carefully thought out way, which has really added to my knowledge."**

Tessa Hibbert, regional partnerships manager, Blagrove Trust

# FURTHER INFORMATION

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For more information or questions about membership, visit [our website](#) or contact our senior membership manager **Natasha Robinson** on [nrobinson@acf.org.uk](mailto:nrobinson@acf.org.uk) or 020 7255 4481.



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